Peace Lutheran Church

Merricourt, North Dakota

OCTOBER 6, 1963

This booklet has been prepared to commemorate:

The Golden Anniversary of the Dedication of the Church Building at Merricourt, North Dakota;

and

The Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of the Congregation's affiliation with The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod.

"We will bless the LORD from this time forth and for evermore."—Psalm 115:18

A BRIEF HISTORY OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
Merricourt, North Dakota

THE FIRST CHURCH — A SCHOOL

The beginnings of Peace Lutheran Church take us back to the early years of this century. The first service was held on Rogate Sunday, 1907 at the Potsdam Township schoolhouse. Pastor H. Timmke of the Iowa Synod had been requested to conduct that service by Mr. Arndt Mammel.

Pastor and Mrs. H. Timmke.

During the next few months services were conducted by Pastors H. Timmke and O. Bruntsch. On Sunday, September 1, 1907 the congregation organized as a free church and took the name Peace Evangelical Lutheran Free Church.

The congregation was then served by Pastor F. Hanselmann from Fredonia until September 30, 1909. He was succeeded by Pastor A. Herforth from Verona who was called on the First of October, 1909.

A CHURCH BUILDING

During this time services were held regularly at the schoolhouse, but in time

Church not quite completed in 1913.

it became too small. The congregation decided to build a house of worship. The building, whose main section measures 24 by 42 feet, was erected on a site four miles east and one and a half miles north of the present location. A free will offering of $3,400 paid for most of the building, leaving a debt of $1,300. The church building was dedicated on

Interior of church on dedication day, October 12, 1913.

October 12, 1913. Some notable firsts for the new building are: first baptism, Albert Bollinger; first confirmation class, Friedericka Mammel, Friedericka Biederstedt, Eva Bollinger, Maria Biederstedt, and Anna Steinwand; first marriage, Ludwig Steinwand and Ottilia Mammel; first funeral, George Steinwand. This same building has served the congregation as its house of worship to this day.

1915-1931

Pastor Herforth served the congregation until Ascension day 1915, when he conducted his last service here, having accepted a call to Harrisville, Wisconsin.

Pastor Theo. M. Haag from Verona accepted the call to serve the congregation on July 1, 1915. He served until November of 1918 when the Verona congregation decided to go self-supporting and Pastor Haag no longer served the Merricourt congregation. Pastor C. Stadtler from Fredonia was called and served until June, 1919 when Peace congregation separated from Fredonia.

Pastor and Mrs. Theo Haag — 1915-1918 and 1919-1923.

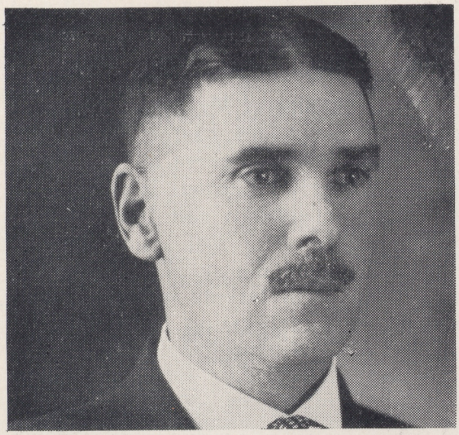
At the request of Mr. Arndt Mammel and John Steinwand, Pastor Theo. Haag was again called to serve the congregation. He served through June of 1923 when he accepted a call to serve two congregations near Long Lake, South Dakota. Then Pastor H. Elster from Enderlin, North Dakota was called and served the congregation until January, 1931.

Rev. H. Elster — 1923-1931.

THE PERIOD OF TRANSITION

The long distances involved during the ministry of Pastor Elster and the inconveniences arising from them made it advisable to seek the services of a minister nearer by. There was disagreement as to whom should be called. After a time Pastor J. Schmidt from Fredonia was called to serve the congregation. He did so temporarily. In November of 1934 Pastor Philip Peters, also from Fredonia, began a brief ministry at Merricourt. For some time during this period the congregation was without the services of a pastor and reading services were held by Mr. Arndt Mammel and Mr. John Steinwand.

AFFILIATION WITH MISSOURI SYNOD



Rev. von Gemmingen

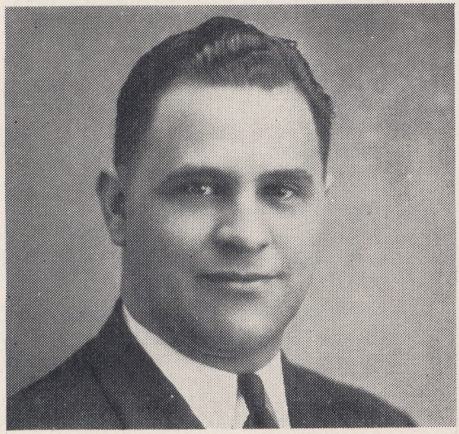
A request was made for services by the pastor of St. Paul's Monango in May of 1938. Pastor H. von Gemmingen stated that he would attempt to serve. The first service conducted by Pastor von Gemmingen was on June 12, 1938. On July 31 of that year Peace congregation was accepted as a member of The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod by Rev. J. P. Klausler, President of the North Dakota-Montana District. A parish was then formed with St. Paul's at Monango.

On the 11th of September, 1938 Peace congregation celebrated the 25th anniversary of their church building in a joint anniversary-mission festival service conducted by Pastor A. F. Vomhof of Ellendale. On October 9th a new constitution was adopted.

A joint call was extended to candidate J. W. Meyer to serve the new parish in January of 1939. He was ordained and installed February 19, 1939. During the spring of 1942 the church building was moved from its country location to the present site in the town of Merricourt. In July, 1942 Pastor Meyer accepted a call to New Germany, Minnesota. Pastor H. Fry from Forbes served as vacancy pastor.

Church on wheels being moved.

A call was extended to the Rev. F. E. Brauer of Minot, North Dakota and on November 15, 1942 he assumed his duties as pastor, being installed by Pastor Haerther and assisted by Pastor von Gemmingen and Candidate Winkler in a service at Monango.



Rev. John Meyer

Pastor F. E. Brauer — 1942-1953

LANGUAGE CHANGE

During the ministry of Pastor Brauer there was a gradual change to the English language. In 1948 German services were held on the first and third Sundays of the month, English services on the rest. Yet, as late as 1952 there was still a German and an English Mission Festival. Notable also was the changeover from the "dues" system to the envelope system. At first envelopes were used only for the home purposes collections but in 1952 the duplex form of envelope came into use. Also notable was the purchase of an electric organ in 1950.

In the latter part of September, 1953 Pastor Brauer received two calls, one to Tilsit, near Jackson, Missouri and the other to Scotland, South Dakota. He accepted the call to Scotland and after a ministry of 11 years he preached his farewell sermon on the First Sunday in Advent, November 29, 1953.

RECENT YEARS

Pastor Walter T. Eifert — 1955-1961.

After a twenty month vacancy during which the congregation was served by Pastor E. Schomberg of Kulm, candidate Walter T. Eifert accepted the call to the Monango-Merricourt parish and was ordained and installed on July 31, 1955. During the years 1956-1958 extensive repair and refurnishing work was done on the church building, including painting the outside, installing accoustical tile on the inside, new lights and new front steps. Most of the cost of these improvements was met from the proceeds of a co-operative farming project in which the members jointly farmed rented land as Acres for Christ. In the fall of 1957 the congregation also purchased an individual communion service.

On February 1, 1961 Pastor Eifert received a call from Lee's Summit, Missouri, to organize a new congregation. He accepted the call and after serving the parish for almost six years Pastor Eifert preached his farewell sermon on Easter Sunday, April 2, 1961.

Pastor Gordon W. Giese.

After a 3 month vacancy, during which the congregation was served by Pastor F. Wesselius of Forbes, Candidate Gordon W. Giese accepted the call to the Monango-Merricourt parish. He was ordained June 18th at Nekoosa, Wisconsin and installed on July 16, 1961 by Pastor Wesselius.

LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE

The first recorded meeting of a Ladies Aid was on December 7, 1938. The ladies decided in the spring of 1943 to join the newly created international organization known as the Lutheran Women's Missionary League. This has been the only service club in the congregation and has been able to serve often as a true "handmaiden" of the Church. It is notable that almost every woman in the congregation is a member of this organization.

Voter's Assembly

Sunday school children.

Organists

SACRED ARTS
PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
Merricourt, North Dakota

BAPTISMS

1907

John Biederstedt

1908

Johanna Regina Mammel

1910

Gottlieb Dockter
Ottilia Delila Gulke
John George Bollinger
Marie Alma Bertha Marquardt
John Arndt Mammel
Paulina Dieterle
Hedwig Gertrude Gall

1911

Maria Magdalena Steinwand
Bertha Louise Mammel
Edwin Theodore Herberg
John Jacob Dockter
Ludwig Dieterle
Maria Carolina Bollinger

1912

Elizabeth Bollinger
Jacob Gottlieb Gall
Gottlieb Edwin Mammel
Michael Paul Schmidt
Johanna Christina Biederstedt
Olga Steinwand
Ida Maria Steinwand
Bertha Maria Bollinger

1913

Olga Ida Dockter
Olga Raugutt
Hulda Clara Herberg
Friedrich Emanuel Gall
Maria Magdalena Steinwand

1914

Karl Bollinger
Emma Marie Bollinger
Ida Alma Mammel
Carolina Biederstedt
Emma Johanna Steinwand

1915

Edward Bollinger
Ida Alvina Bollinger
Gottlieb Dieterle
Otto Oscar Steinwand
Ottilia Bollinger
Ethel Bucholz
Arthur Bucholz

1916

Alvin Oscar Geiszler
Jacob Biederstedt
Theodore Bollinger
Ottilia Friederika Gall

1917

Magdalena Bollinger
Hulda Steinwand
Theodore Albert Bucholz
Hildegard Bertha Rosalia Steinwand
Rachel Bollinger
Bertha Steinwand

1918

Reuben Mammel
Emilie Ida Gall
Emilie Ottilia Steinwand
Arthur John Stahlecker
Olga Bollinger
Ottilia Bollinger
Leona Elizabeth Steinwand

1919

Freda Carolina Steinwand
Otto Bollinger
Arthur Harold Bollinger
Gottlieb Steinwand
Milton Stahlecker
Benjamin Arthur Steinwand
August Edward Bollinger
Harold Theodore Mammel

1921

Alexander Arndt Steinwand
Ida Bollinger
Esther Ruth Biederstedt
Edna Rosalia Stahlecker
John George Steinwand
Ellen Louise Marie Rittirodt
Eva Ruth Bollinger
Lea Rebecca Bollinger
Violet Ruth Bollinger
Arndt Ludwig Steinwand
Ruth Esther Schueffele

1922

Karl Alvin Rettzlaff
Leroy Dale Harter
Lenora Viola Walz

1923

Leroy George Biederstedt
Maria Carolina Steinwand
Martin Jacob Bollinger
Theresa Klotzbuechler
Ralph Lloyd Nelson
Fredrich Leonard Stahlecker
Jacob Karl Harter
Esther Hulda Steinwand
Dora Johanna Steinwand
David Arthur Bollinger
Irene Levina Herberg

1924

Esther Hulda Steinwand
Walter William Scheuffele
Edna Steinwand
Pauline Steinwand
Karl Calvin Edwin Stahlecker
Ellen Erna Biederstedt

1925

Martin John Steinwand
David Steinwand
Gertrude Eleanore Fey
Ottilia Steinwand
Karl John Bollinger

1926

Lora Lucille Lammer
Fredrich Wilhelm Bollinger
Leah Ruth Steinwand
Emma Eleanore Stahlecker
Edna Esther Bollinger
Clarence George Fey
Dolores Florence Scheuffele
Richard Raymond Rasch

1927

Mildred May Mammel
August Edward Steinwand
Walter Arndt Steinwand
Lloyd Lorenz Lammer

1928

Wilbert Albert Stahlecker
Richard Steinwand
Reuben Alvin Bollinger
Loren Rudolph Scheuffele
Kenneth Leroy Rall
Richard Arnold Steinwand

1929

Ella Bollinger
Clarence Clifford Biederstedt
Victor Raymond Steinwand
Lyle Edwin Rasch
Clifford Heinrich Steinwand

1930

Louella Caroline Scheuffele
Richard Raymond Stahlecker
Marvin Alvin Bollinger

1931

Lester Leroy Lammer
Dorene Lavone Scheuffele
James Dale Mammel

1932

Ella Leona Steinwand
Esther Leona Steinwand

1933

Duane Allen Rasch
Anita Janet Richter

1934

Donald Lloyd Steinwand

1936

Leonard Steinwand
Adeline Elsie Steinwand
Eileen Carol Rasch
Marlene Grace Richter

1938

Erwin Eldon Steinwand

1939

Lajune Carrie Stahlecker
Florence Doris Bollinger
Norman Norris Stahlecker
Harlan Duane Stahlecker

1940

Melvin Harold Nelson
Delbert Wayne Nelson
Sharon Mae Stahlecker
Wayne James Steinwand

1941

Connie Kathleen Engle
Loretta Mae Gebhardt

1942

Rodney Theodore Zimmerman
Lona Jean Klima

1943

Sandra Jane Hanneld

1944

Clark Freddie Stahlecker
Larry Ernest Gebhardt
Richard Reinhold Stark
John Jacob Ernst
Emma Elvina Bollinger
Ronald Gene Roeszler

1945

Harry Reuben Ernst

1946

Verna Agnes Klipfel
Peggy Ann Klipfel
Angela Marie Steinwand

1947

Elvira Ottilia Bernhagen

1948

Robert Donald Bernhagen
Dennis Lee Klipfel
Laverne Arvin Gebhardt
Ellery Joel Rall
Gwyn Celeste Rall

1949

Dale Allen Schulz
Dewey Lee Steinwand
Linda Mae Kracke
Lila Jean Ulrich
Vera Louise Bernhagen

1950

Timothy James Klipfel
Wayne Alvin Klipfel
Lois Elaine Gebhardt
Mona Joyce King
Howard Lyle Wahl
Carol Jean Wahl
Eva Mae Wahl
Judy Marie Ulrich
Craige Allen Gehring
Michael Morrow

1951

Leebey King
Donald Duane Young
Patricia Ann Klipfel
Kenton Howard Lund

1952

Victoria Ann Young
Darwin Charles Ulrich
Shirley King Podenski
Lloyd Ronald Gebhardt
Kent Roger Klima

1953

Kathleen Gail Raugutt

1954

Paula Ann Klipfel

1955

Raenette Bonnie Bollinger
Brent Allen Klipfel
Bonita Kay Klipfel
Kevin Dean Raugutt

1957

Michael Gene Young
David Harold Winters

1958

Joseph John Rall

1960

Jeane Larae Podenski

1961

Lavon Joy Raugutt

1962

Kelly Jean King
Renae Linette Steinwand
Shelli Rene Vie

1963

Marlon Carlton Steinwand

CONFIRMATIONS

1910

Christina Mammel
Ottilia Mammel
Carolina Bollinger
Paulina Raugutt
Ludwig Steinwand

1911

Maria Biederstedt
Martha Scheuffele
Theresa Raugutt
Katherina Frigen
Karolina Frigen
Johann Stahlecker
Gustav Scheuffele
Alexander Steinwand

1913

Katherina Biederstedt
Maria Magdalena Stern
David Steinwand
Samuel Biederstedt
Rudolf Schueffele
Jacob Bollinger

1916

Friederika Mammel
Friederika Biederstedt
Eva Bollinger
Maria Biederstedt
Anna Steinwand

1919

Christoph Biederstedt
Ottilia Biederstedt

1921

Gottlieb Bollinger
Lydia Bollinger
Johann Biederstedt
Frederick Biederstedt
Regina Biederstedt

1922

Anna Gramitta
Hannah Mammel

1923

Arndt Bollinger

1924

Edward Lammer

1926

Johann Bollinger
Edwin Herberg
Maria Steinwand
Bertha Mammel
Magdalena Maier
Maria Bollinger
Elizabeth Bollinger
Bertha Bollinger
Olga Steinwand
Ida Steinwand

1929

Jacob Maier
Albert Bollinger
Otto Steinwand
Alvin Geiszler
Hulda Herberg
Emma Steinwand
Elsa Steinwand
Ida Bollinger
Ottilia Bollinger
Anna Maier

1938

Frederic L. Stahlecker
David A. Bollinger
Lea Bollinger
Marie Steinwand
Esther Steinwand

1939

Helen Klima Steinwand
Milton Stahlecker

1940

Leah Steinwand
David Steinwand
Wilbert Richter
Emma Stahlecker
Frederic Bollinger

1941

Roland Rasch
Mildred Mammel
August Steinwand

1942

Reuben Bollinger
Louise Richter

1944

Wilbert Stahlecker
Richard Steinwand
Otto Rasch
Lyle Rasch
Lawrence Richter
Richard Stahlecker
LaJune Gebhardt
Edwin Steinwand
John Ernst, Jr.
Emma Ernst Bollinger

1945

Harry Ernst
Marvin Bollinger
Laura Gebhardt
Corinne Stark

1946

Ewald Bernhagen
Duane Rasch
Robert Klima
LaJune Stahlecker
Esther Steinwand
Florence Bollinger
Verna Miller Klipfel

1947

Gerhardt Gebhardt
August Bernhagen
Donna Mae Wiederrich
Edna Richter

1950

Donald Steinwand
DeForest Rall
Norman Raugutt
Maynard Rall
Leonard Steinwand
Reinhold Bernhagen
Kenneth Stark
Eileen Rasch

1951

Louis Klima
LeeBey King
Gene Young
Donald Young
Deliliah King Gehring
Wilma Burkhardt Raugutt

1953

Shirley King Podenski
Raymond Podenski
Albert Klima

1957

Darwin Gebhardt
Diann Gehring
Durand Rall
Ellery Rall
Clark Stahlecker

1958

Kent Klima
Richard Stark
Joseph John Rall

1960

Peggy Ann Klipfel
Angela Marie Steinwand
Iris Brandenburger

1961

James Harvey Hogstad

1962

Cheryl Schlosser

DEATHS

1913

George Steinwand
Maria Steinwand

1914

Carl Bollinger
Emma Bollinger

1915

Edward Bollinger

1916

Magdalena Bollinger

1917

Johan Bollinger
Katherina Steinhilb Dieterle
Jacob Biederstedt

1918

Olga Bollinger
Ottilia Bollinger
Emilie Steinwand

1921

Eva Bollinger Biederstedt
Karl Biederstedt
Johann Bollinger

1922

Arndt Steinwand
Elizabeth Hehr Bollinger

1924

Esther Steinwand

1925

Dora Steinwand
Edna Steinwand
Ottilia Mammel Steinwand

1928

Christian Scheuffle
Frederich Stahlecker

1929

Calvin Stahlecker

1931

Christina Rath Giezler
Frederika Mammel Lammer
Lester Lammer

1938

Karoline Oster Stahlecker

1939

Johann Steinwand
George Biederstedt

1941

Ludwig Steinwand

1944

Magdalena Schock Biederstedt Fischer
Elizabeth Boesler Fehling
Arthur Bollinger
Maria Keck Steinwand
Arthur John Stahlecker—War Death Memorial Services in 1945

1945

Christoph Biederstedt

1947

Eva Dockter Bollinger

1953

Arndt Mammel

1955

Louis Klima
Friederika Biederstedt Mammel

1958

Ludama Block Stark

1962

Gottlieb Bollinger

MARRIAGES

1910

Johannes Steinwand—Mathilda Raugutt
Samuel Mammel—Lydia Bollinger
Gottlieb Bollinger—Johanna Biederstedt

1912

Heinrich Schmidt—Paulina Raugutt
Heinrich Steinwand—Paulina Wiederrich

1913

Gottfried Ensminger—Lydia Scheuffele
Robert Steinwand—Carolina Bollinger
Ludwig Bollinger, Jr.—Maria Biederstedt

1914

Reinhold Steinwand—Christina Mammel

1916

Ludwig Steinwand—Ottilia Mammel

1917

Friederich Stahlecker—Lydia Aldinger

1919

Johann Stahlecker—Friederika Biederstedt

1920

Jacob Bollinger—Lydia Dockter
Jacob Mammel—Anna Roeszler
Karl Wagner—Anna Steinwand
Samuel Biederstedt—Eva Bollinger

1921

Gustav Scheuffele—Emma Harter
Samuel Biederstedt—Elizabeth Schock

1923

Edward Lammer—Friederika Mammel

1926

John Rasch—Johanna Mammel

1930

Gustav Schaller—Magdalena Maier
Otto Richter—Maria Bollinger

1934

Gottlieb Frigen—Ida Steinwand

1939

Bernhardt Rasch—Bertha Mammel
Gottlieb Steinwand—Helen Klima

1940

Ernest Gebhardt—Hildegard Steinwand

1941

Albert Bollinger—Clara Gall
Benjamin Steinwand—Emily Gall

1945

John Klettke—Elsie Gall
Alvin Klipfel—Verna Miller
Alexander A. Steinwand—Erna Rasch

1946

Alvin Schulz—Gladys Gebhardt
Marshall Lund—Edna Klipfel
Edwin Klipfel—Phyllis Schnaidt

1947

Edward Borth—Esther Klipfel

1948

LeeBey King—LaJune Gebhardt

1949

Gene Young—Corinne Stark

1951

Raymond Podenski—Shirley King

1958

Norman Raugutt—Pearl Ernst
David Edwards—Lynda Rall

1960

Wayne Steinwand—Iris Brandenburger